

AMENDMENTS TO ABSTRACT

A method for calibrating a propagation delay in a network trunk includes the step of ~~providing a counter in each of first and second network switches in a network switch system;~~ each counter calculating a time period T_i ~~from in a first network switch between~~ sending a marker ~~in the first network switch until and~~ receiving a trunk package acknowledgement marker from the second network switch, and a time period T_t ~~from in the second switch between~~ receiving the trunk package and the marker ~~in the second network switch until generating and transmitting~~ an acknowledgement marker containing the trunk package back to the first switch, ~~[[;]] commanding the second network switch to append~~ appending the time period T_t to the acknowledgement marker ~~prior to before sending the acknowledge marker it~~ back to the first network switch~~[[;]]~~. ~~Reading out the~~ The time gap T_i is read ~~after the first network switch has received the acknowledgement marker[[;]]~~ and calculating a time delay T_x by an equation $T_x = (T_i - T_t)/2$ wherein the time delay T_x is caused by sending the trunk package on each channel ~~between the first and the second network switches. Further, the~~ caused by sending the trunk package on each channel is calculated. The second network switch is operable to decode ~~decodes~~ the received trunk package ~~for calibrating and calibrates~~ the propagation delay based on the time delay T_x ~~in order to determine a time gap between the packages in the same channel[[;]] thereby obtaining a correct data stream from the trunk package. This reduces the possibility of require a software tool at upper layer to wait or discarding a sequence of data stream due to erroneous data stream.~~